

**CLAIMS**

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of treating a wound according to claim 13 wherein the wound is a burn.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the dressing is non-occlusive.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Currently amended) A method of treating an acute wound using a wound dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water, said highly absorbent fibers being selected from the group consisting of alginate, viscose, modified cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid fibers, other polysaccharide fibers and fibers derived from gums, comprising the steps of:
  - a) applying the wound dressing to the wound;
  - b) allowing the dressing to become adhered to the wound;
  - c) leaving the dressing in place for epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking into the dressing to occur and until the dressing dries out to form a crust; and
  - d) removing the dressing once the wound has healed.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended) A method for substituting a wound dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water, said highly absorbent fibers being selected from the group consisting of alginates, viscose, modified cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid or mixtures thereof, for a biological dressing comprising the steps of
  - a) in place of a biological dressing, applying the wound dressing to a wound that would otherwise be treated using a biological dressing;
  - b) allowing the wound dressing to adhere to the wound and be left in place for epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking into the dressing to occur and until the dressing dries out to form a crust; and

- c) removing the dressing once the wound has healed.
- 16. (Canceled)
- 17. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the wound is a burn.
- 18. (New) A method of treating an acute wound using a wound dressing comprising highly absorbent fibers that can absorb at least 25 g/g of deionized water, said highly absorbent fibers being selected from the group consisting of alginate, viscose, modified cellulose, polyester, polypropylene and co-polymers thereof, pectin, chitosan, hyaluronic acid fibers and fibers derived from gums, comprising the steps of:
  - a) applying the wound dressing to the wound;
  - b) allowing the dressing to become adhered to the wound;
  - c.) leaving the dressing in place for epithelial outgrowth and vertical wicking into the dressing to occur and until the dressing dries out to form a crust; and
  - d.) removing the dressing once the wound has healed.